

Message Text

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VIENNA FOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN US

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH'S
MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

1. FRONT-PAGE LEAD ACCOUNTS OF FRIDAY'S FORD-SINGH MEETING
IN SOME CASES ACCOMPANIED BY A THREE-COLUMN
PHOTO APPEARED IN ALL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES IN DELHI ON
SATURDAY (EXCEPT THE PATRIOT, WHICH NONETHELESS CARRIED THE
STORY ON PAGE ONE).

2. THE PTI DISPATCH SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD TOLD SWARAN SINGH
THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION WAS "SINCERE AND KEEN" ON HAVING CLOSER
RELATIONS WITH INDIA, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER "REITERATED INDIA'S
POLICY OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF
SOVEREIGN EQUALITY." SWARAN SINGH SAID "MRS. GANDHI ALSO
WANTED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES...AND THERE
WAS NOW NO CONFLICT OF BILATERAL OR NATIONAL INTEREST BETWEEN THE
TWO DEMOCRACIES."

3. PTI REPORTED AS FOLLOWS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING:

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4 -- "THE QUESTION OF U.S. ARMS FOR PAKISTAN DID NOT FIGURE

SPECIFICALLY IN THE TALKS."

5. -- "THE FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA ... FIGURES IN THE DISCUSSIONS."
SWARAN SINGH "EXPLAINED THAT THE FOOD SHORTAGE WAS ONLY
MARGINAL, BUT BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE COUNTRY IT TOOK ON
LARGE PROPORTIONS."

6. -- "REGARDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SWARAN SINGH STRESSED
THAT INDIA ATTACHED GREATER VALUE TO TRADE THAN TO AID."

7. -- "MR. FORD REFERRED TO HIS U.N. SPEECH IN WHICH HE
PLEDGED EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE TO DEFICIT COUNTRIES
AND ALSO U.S. READINESS TO HELP IN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES.
DETAILS OF THE AMERICAN PLAN WERE BEING WORKED OUT BY THE
AGRICULTURE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THEY WOULD
BE OUTLINED AT THE ROME FOOD CONFERENCE."

8. -- "ON AN INVITATION EXTENDED TO THE U.S. PRESIDENT TO
VISIT INDIA, MR. FORD IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE SAID THAT BECAUSE
OF HIS PREOCCUPATIONS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MAKE THE
TRIP ONLY NEXT YEAR."

9. -- THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST, SWARAN SINGH SAID, "DID NOT
COME UP DIRECTLY. THERE WAS NO UNFAVORABLE COMMENT ON IT."

10. -- SWARAN SINGH "SAID THE QUESTION OF COVERT ACTIVITIES BY THE
CIA IN CHILE DID NOT FIGURE IN HIS TALKS."

11. -- SWARAN SINGH SAID THERE WAS "AN IDENTITY OF APPROACH
BETWEEN INDIA AND THE U.S." ON "THE EMERGENCE OF STABLE
CONDITIONS IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT."

12. -- THE MINISTER'S ASSESSMENT OF THE MEETING, AS REPORTED
BY PTI: "HE FOUND THE PRESIDENT CANDID IN HIS REACTIONS. 'I
WAS SATISFIED WITH MY TALKS BECAUSE HIS APPROACH TO PROBLEMS
WAS BOTH POSITIVE AND HELPFUL.'"

13. SEPARATELY, PTI REPORTED THAT SECRETARIES SIMONS AND BUTZ
"ARE LIKELY TO VISIT INDIA THIS YEAR. THE VISIT (SIC) WILL TAKE
PLACE AFTER DR. KISSINGER'S OCTOBER TRIP TO NEW DELHI AND
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SUBSEQUENT TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ROME
IN NOVEMBER."SCHNEIDER

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